

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 17-22 remain in the application. Claims 23-31 were previously cancelled. Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 13-16 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 1, 17, 19, and 20 are amended to more distinctly describe applicant's invention. Support for the amendments to claims 1 can be found at least in paragraph [0043] of the specification as originally filed. No new matter is added by this response.

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102.

In the final office action mailed April 27, 2005, Claims 1 and 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based upon Tanenbaum. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, calls for a data memory coupled to and shared by both the processor and the mass storage device. The disk controller in Tanenbaum is not a mass storage device as called for in claim 1, but is instead an interface to a mass storage device labeled "disk" in Tanenbaum. However, even if the disk controller were to be integrated with the disk in Tanenbaum, the reference shows a disk controller having memory (labeled "buffers") that is separate from and independent of the block labeled memory. Tanenbaum does not fairly suggest that the disk controller buffers could be implemented in the memory, or that the memory could be implemented by the disk controller buffers, so as to provide a data memory coupled to and shared by both the processor and the mass storage device as called for in claim 1. For at least these reasons claim 1 is allowable over the Tanenbaum reference.

Claim 2-3, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 17-22 that depend from claim 1 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 as well as the limitations presented in those claims.

B. Conclusion.

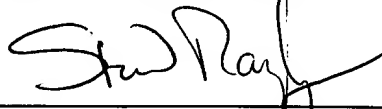
In view of all of the above, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 12, and 17-22 are believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Appl. No: 09/943,242
Amdt. Dated: July 18, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2005

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,



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